



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEW MEXICO STATE OFFICE ■ 1474 RODEO RD ■ SANTA FE NM 87505

Hans Stuart ■ Public Affairs Chief ■ 505.438.7510

For Immediate Release
May 25, 2004

For Additional Information
Kitty Mulkey 505.438.7511

BLM Carlsbad Manager Transfers To Amarillo Field Office

Ms. Leslie Theiss, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carlsbad Field Manager, is heading to the Amarillo Field Office to manage the national helium program. The Amarillo Field Office is responsible for operating and maintaining the helium storage reservoir and a pipeline system; providing crude helium gas by contract with private companies; studying the Nation's helium-bearing gas fields; and conducting research of land and mineral record documentation to determine helium production and the Government's ownership portion of helium extracted from Federal acreage. Other responsibilities include developing the Cross Bar property, adjacent to the Cliffside Helium Enrichment Unit, which contains culturally significant ruins.

"The Helium program is an important part of our science and technology industries. I look forward to continuing the positive work of this important BLM office," Theiss said.

Under Theiss' leadership, the Carlsbad Field Office increased its staff size by about one third to handle the heavy oil and gas program workload and successfully streamlined and decreased permit processing time. Her responsibilities included supervising oil and gas permitting activities in the hydrocarbon-rich Permian Basin, administering the Secretary's Potash Area, and protecting world-class cave resources adjacent to Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

"Working in New Mexico has been a great experience," said Theiss. "Now I'm looking forward to learning more about other facets of the BLM."

Theiss is a graduate of the 2003 DOI Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program (SESCDP). She has over 25 years of government service and worked in Wyoming, Alaska, and California prior to coming to New Mexico in 1999. Leslie started her career as a geophysicist with the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Los Angeles, California. She also is a graduate of the Senior Executive Fellows Program, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

She graduated from California State University-Los Angeles, with a B.S. in Geology. She and her husband, Mark, enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including hiking, camping, fishing, photography, gardening, and motorcycling. She is involved in Pet Therapy work with her Rhodesian Ridgeback dogs. They visit nursing homes and conduct educational programs for schoolchildren about responsible pet ownership.

-BLM-



www.nm.blm.gov



www.nm.blm.gov